

CLAIMS

1 1. An event planning process executed by a server system in a computer network including
2 a plurality of user terminals communicatively coupled with the server system via the network,
3 the process comprising the steps of:

4 providing an event planning graphical user interface at a user terminal, the interface
5 enabling a user to plan an event;

6 receiving event information input by the user, said event information indicating a
7 scheduled event, at least one invitee to be invited to said scheduled event, and information
8 indicative of RSVP fees required to attend said scheduled event;

9 providing an invitation to said invitee, said invitation indicating said scheduled event and
10 said RSVP fees, and soliciting a response to said invitation, wherein an affirmative response to
11 said invitation requires a payment as defined by said RSVP fees;

12 receiving RSVP status information including payment information from said invitee; and
13 verifying said payment information.

1 2. An event planning process as recited in claim 1 wherein said step of providing an event
2 planning graphical user interface at the user terminal includes generating at least one event
3 planning Web page that is accessible at the user terminal via the network, said event planning
4 Web page including embedded code for providing said event planning graphical user interface.

1 3. An event planning process as recited in claim 1 wherein said steps of providing an
2 invitation to said invitee and receiving RSVP status information further comprise:

3 generating an invitation Web page based on said event information, said invitation Web
4 page being accessible via the network and being operative to provide an invitation response
5 graphical user interface for enabling said invitee to respond to said invitation;

6 sending an invitation message to said invitee, said invitation message prompting said
7 invitee to view said invitation Web page; and

8 receiving input provided by said invitee via said invitation Web page, said input provided
9 by said invitee indicating said RSVP status information.

1 4. An event planning process as recited in claim 3 wherein said step of sending an invitation
2 message to said invitee comprises sending an Email message via the network to said invitee at a
3 second user terminal, said Email invitation including a link to said invitation Web page.

1 5. An event planning process as recited in claim 3 wherein the server system is
2 communicatively coupled with a plain old telephone system, and wherein said step of sending an
3 invitation message to said invitee comprises sending a fax invitation message to said invitee via
4 said telephone system, said fax invitation including a universal resource locator for accessing
5 said invitation Web page via the network.

1 6. An event planning process as recited in claim 3 wherein said step of sending an invitation
2 message to said invitee comprises sending a post card to said invitee, said post card providing a
3 universal resource locator for accessing said invitation Web page via the network.

1 7. An event planning process as recited in claim 1 wherein the server system is
2 communicatively coupled with an interactive voice response system that is connected to a plain
3 old telephone system, said interactive voice response system being configured to enable said
4 invitee to provide said RSVP status information in response to said invitation, and wherein said
5 RSVP status information is received at the server system via said interactive voice response
6 system.

1 8. An event planning process as recited in claim 1 wherein:
2 said step of providing an event planning graphical user interface at the user terminal
3 includes a step of providing a plurality of invitation templates each being associated with a
4 different type of event and having at least one associated graphical image;
5 said step of receiving event information includes receiving information indicative of a
6 selected one of said templates; and
7 said step of generating an invitation Web page includes generating an invitation Web
8 page based on said selected template, said invitation Web page displaying said associated
9 graphical image.

1 9. An event planning process as recited in claim 1 wherein:

2 said step of providing an event planning graphical user interface at the user terminal
3 includes providing access to an address book associated with the user, said address book
4 including a list of contacts and associated contract addresses;

5 said step of receiving event information includes receiving information indicative of
6 selected ones of said contacts; and

7 said step of providing an invitation includes providing invitations to said selected
8 contacts.

1 10. An event planning process as recited in claim 3 wherein said step of providing an event
2 planning graphical user interface includes prompting the user to indicate whether said scheduled
3 event is to be listed in a public events directory, and wherein said event information indicates
4 whether said scheduled event is to be listed in the public events directory, and further comprising
5 the step of:

6 if said event information indicates that said scheduled event is to be listed in the public
7 events directory, providing a link to said invitation Web page from a home page Web page that is
8 accessible via the network, said invitation Web page allowing anyone who accesses said
9 invitation Web page to RSVP for said scheduled event.

1 11. An event planning process as recited in claim 1 wherein said step of providing an event
2 planning graphical user interface includes prompting the user to indicate a schedule for sending
3 reminders to invited guests, and further comprising the step of sending reminder messages to
4 said invitees in accordance with said schedule.

1 12. An event planning process as recited in claim 3 wherein:

2 said step of providing an event planning graphical user interface includes prompting the
3 user to specify a question for said invitee;

4 said event information specifies said question;

5 said invitation Web page is further operative to provide invitation response graphical user
6 interface components enabling said invitee to provide a response to said question; and

7 said step of receiving invitee user input via said invitation Web page includes receiving
8 information indicative of said response.

1 13. An event planning process as recited in claim 12 wherein said invitation Web page is
2 further operative to enable other invitees to view said response if the user has selected an option
3 of enabling said other invitees to view said response.

1 14. An event planning process as recited in claim 3 wherein said invitation Web page is
2 further operative to enable said invitee to view information indicating other invitees associated
3 with the planned event, and RSVP status information associated with each of said other invitees.

1 15. An event planning process as recited in claim 3 wherein invitees may post messages and
2 comments regarding the event on said invitation Web page.

1 16. An event planning process as recited in claim 15 wherein said user may specify that all of
2 said posted messages and comments may be viewed only by said user.

1 17. An event planning process as recited in claim 3 wherein said step of providing an event
2 planning graphical user interface includes prompting the user to indicate whether said invitee
3 may forward said invitation to other people.

1 18. An event planning process as recited in claim 1 wherein said step of providing an event
2 planning graphical user interface includes prompting the user to indicate ticket pricing
3 information indicating a price of at least one type of ticket being offered for admission to said
4 scheduled event, and further comprising a step of determining convenience fees to be paid to
5 administrators of the server system based on sales of said tickets to said invitees.

1 19. An event planning process as recited in claim 18 wherein said event information provided
2 by said user indicates whether said convenience fees are to be paid from proceeds of ticket sales,
3 or whether said convenience fees are to be passed on to said invitees.

1 20. An event planning process as recited in claim 2 further comprising the steps of:
2 providing an event summary Web page to the user terminal, the event summary Web
3 page enabling the user to select from at least one previously planned event;
4 receiving user input from said user via said event summary Web page, said user input
5 indicating a selected one of the previously planned events;

6 generating event summary information associated with the selected event, said event
7 summary information including RSVP status information associated with each of the invitees for
8 selected event; and
9 transmitting said event summary information to said user terminal.

1 21. An event planning process as recited in claim 3 wherein said invitation Web page
2 provides an invitation response graphical user interface enabling said invitee to select "maybe"
3 as an said RSVP status response.

1 22. An event planning process as recited in claim 1 wherein said step of providing an event
2 planning graphical user interface includes prompting the user to specify a maximum number of
3 invitees.

1 23. An event planning process as recited in claim 2 further comprising the steps of:
2 providing an event report Web page to the user terminal, the event report Web page
3 enabling the user to select from at least one previously planned event;
4 receiving user input from said user via said event report Web page, said user input
5 indicating a selected one of the previously planned events;
6 generating event report information associated with the selected event, said event report
7 information including RSVP fee status information associated with each of the invitees for
8 selected event; and
9 transmitting said event report information to said user terminal.

1 24. An event planning process as recited in claim 18 further comprising the steps of:
2 providing an event report Web page to the user terminal, the event report Web page
3 enabling the user to select from at least one previously planned event;
4 receiving user input from said user via said event report Web page, said user input
5 indicating a selected one of the previously planned events;
6 generating event report information associated with the selected event, said event report
7 information including RSVP fee status information and convenience fee information associated
8 with said selected event; and
9 transmitting said event report information to said user terminal.

1 25. An event planning process as recited in claim 1 wherein each of said invitees is a member
2 of an organization.

1 26. A server system operative to execute an event planning process in a computer network
2 including a plurality of user terminals communicatively coupled with the server system via the
3 network, the process comprising the steps of:

4 providing an event planning graphical user interface at a user terminal, the interface
5 enabling a user to plan an event;

6 receiving event information input by the user, said event information indicating a
7 scheduled event, at least one invitee to be invited to said scheduled event, and information
8 indicative of RSVP fees required to attend said scheduled event;

9 providing an invitation to said invitee, said invitation indicating said scheduled event and
10 said RSVP fees, and soliciting a response to said invitation, wherein an affirmative response to
11 said invitation requires a payment as defined by said RSVP fees;

12 receiving RSVP status information including payment information from said invitee; and
13 verifying said payment information.

1 27. A server system as recited in claim 26 wherein said step of providing an event planning
2 graphical user interface at the user terminal includes generating at least one event planning Web
3 page that is accessible at the user terminal via the network, said event planning Web page
4 including embedded code for providing said event planning graphical user interface.

1 28. An event planning process as recited in claim 26 wherein said steps of providing an
2 invitation to said invitee and receiving RSVP status information further comprise:

3 generating an invitation Web page based on said event information, said invitation Web
4 page being accessible via the network and being operative to provide an invitation response
5 graphical user interface for enabling said invitee to respond to said invitation;

6 sending an invitation message to said invitee, said invitation message prompting said
7 invitee to view said invitation Web page; and

8 receiving input provided by said invitee via said invitation Web page, said input provided
9 by said invitee indicating said RSVP status information.

1 29. An event planning process as recited in claim 28 wherein said step of sending an
2 invitation message to said invitee comprises sending an Email message via the network to said
3 invitee at a second user terminal, said Email invitation including a link to said invitation Web
4 page.

1 30. An event planning process as recited in claim 28 wherein the server system is
2 communicatively coupled with a plain old telephone system, and wherein said step of sending an
3 invitation message to said invitee comprises sending a fax invitation message to said invitee via
4 said telephone system, said fax invitation including a universal resource locator for accessing
5 said invitation Web page via the network.

1 31. An event planning process as recited in claim 28 wherein said step of sending an
2 invitation message to said invitee comprises sending a post card to said invitee, said post card
3 providing a universal resource locator for accessing said invitation Web page via the network.

1 32. An event planning process as recited in claim 26 wherein the server system is
2 communicatively coupled with an interactive voice response system that is connected to a plain
3 old telephone system, said interactive voice response system being configured to enable said
4 invitee to provide said RSVP status information in response to said invitation, and wherein said
5 RSVP status information is received at the server system via said interactive voice response
6 system.

1 33. An event planning process as recited in claim 26 wherein:
2 said step of providing an event planning graphical user interface at the user terminal
3 includes a step of providing a plurality of invitation templates each being associated with a
4 different type of event and having at least one associated graphical image;
5 said step of receiving event information includes receiving information indicative of a
6 selected one of said templates; and
7 said step of generating an invitation Web page includes generating an invitation Web
8 page based on said selected template, said invitation Web page displaying said associated
9 graphical image.

1 34. An event planning process as recited in claim 26 wherein:

2 said step of providing an event planning graphical user interface at the user terminal
3 includes providing access to an address book associated with the user, said address book
4 including a list of contacts and associated contract addresses;

5 said step of receiving event information includes receiving information indicative of
6 selected ones of said contacts; and

7 said step of providing an invitation includes providing invitations to said selected
8 contacts.

1 35. An event planning process as recited in claim 28 wherein said step of providing an event
2 planning graphical user interface includes prompting the user to indicate whether said scheduled
3 event is to be listed in a public events directory, and wherein said event information indicates
4 whether said scheduled event is to be listed in the public events directory, and further comprising
5 the step of:

6 if said event information indicates that said scheduled event is to be listed in the public
7 events directory, providing a link to said invitation Web page from a home page Web page that is
8 accessible via the network, said invitation Web page allowing anyone who accesses said
9 invitation Web page to RSVP for said scheduled event.

1 36. An event planning process as recited in claim 26 wherein said step of providing an event
2 planning graphical user interface includes prompting the user to indicate a schedule for sending
3 reminders to invited guests, and further comprising the step of sending reminder messages to
4 said invitees in accordance with said schedule.

1 37. An event planning process as recited in claim 28 wherein:

2 said step of providing an event planning graphical user interface includes prompting the
3 user to specify a question for said invitee;

4 said event information specifies said question;

5 said invitation Web page is further operative to provide invitation response graphical user
6 interface components enabling said invitee to provide a response to said question; and

7 said step of receiving invitee user input via said invitation Web page includes receiving
8 information indicative of said response.

1 38. An event planning process as recited in claim 37 wherein said invitation Web page is
2 further operative to enable other invitees to view said response if the user has selected an option
3 of enabling said other invitees to view said response.

1 39. An event planning process as recited in claim 28 wherein said invitation Web page is
2 further operative to enable said invitee to view information indicating other invitees associated
3 with the planned event, and RSVP status information associated with each of said other invitees.

1 40. An event planning process as recited in claim 28 wherein invitees may post messages and
2 comments regarding the event on said invitation Web page.

1 41. An event planning process as recited in claim 40 wherein said user may specify that all of
2 said posted messages and comments may be viewed only by said user.

1 42. An event planning process as recited in claim 28 wherein said step of providing an event
2 planning graphical user interface includes prompting the user to indicate whether said invitee
3 may forward said invitation to other people.

1 43. An event planning process as recited in claim 26 wherein said step of providing an event
2 planning graphical user interface includes prompting the user to indicate ticket pricing
3 information indicating a price of at least one type of ticket being offered for admission to said
4 scheduled event, and further comprising a step of determining convenience fees to be paid to
5 administrators of the server system based on sales of said tickets to said invitees.

1 44. An event planning process as recited in claim 43 wherein said event information provided
2 by said user indicates whether said convenience fees are to be paid from proceeds of ticket sales,
3 or whether said convenience fees are to be passed on to said invitees.

1 45. An event planning process as recited in claim 27 further comprising the steps of:
2 providing an event summary Web page to the user terminal, the event summary Web
3 page enabling the user to select from at least one previously planned event;
4 receiving user input from said user via said event summary Web page, said user input
5 indicating a selected one of the previously planned events;

6 generating event summary information associated with the selected event, said event
7 summary information including RSVP status information associated with each of the invitees for
8 selected event; and
9 transmitting said event summary information to said user terminal.

1 46. An event planning process as recited in claim 28 wherein said invitation Web page
2 provides an invitation response graphical user interface enabling said invitee to select "maybe"
3 as an said RSVP status response.

1 47. An event planning process as recited in claim 26 wherein said step of providing an event
2 planning graphical user interface includes prompting the user to specify a maximum number of
3 invitees.

1 48. An event planning process as recited in claim 27 further comprising the steps of:
2 providing an event report Web page to the user terminal, the event report Web page
3 enabling the user to select from at least one previously planned event;
4 receiving user input from said user via said event report Web page, said user input
5 indicating a selected one of the previously planned events;
6 generating event report information associated with the selected event, said event report
7 information including RSVP fee status information associated with each of the invitees for
8 selected event; and
9 transmitting said event report information to said user terminal.

1 49. An event planning process as recited in claim 43 further comprising the steps of:
2 providing an event report Web page to the user terminal, the event report Web page
3 enabling the user to select from at least one previously planned event;
4 receiving user input from said user via said event report Web page, said user input
5 indicating a selected one of the previously planned events;
6 generating event report information associated with the selected event, said event report
7 information including RSVP fee status information and convenience fee information associated
8 with said selected event; and
9 transmitting said event report information to said user terminal.

1 50. An event planning process as recited in claim 26 wherein each of said invitees is a
2 member of an organization.

1 51. An event planning process executed by a server system in a computer network including
2 a plurality of user terminals communicatively coupled with the server system via the network,
3 the process comprising the steps of:

4 generating at least one event planning Web page that is accessible at the user terminal via
5 the network, said event planning Web page including embedded code for providing an event
6 planning graphical user interface;

7 receiving event information input by the user, said event information indicating a
8 scheduled event, at least one invitee to be invited to said scheduled event, and information
9 indicative of RSVP fees required to attend said scheduled event;

10 providing an invitation to said invitee, said invitation indicating said scheduled event and
11 said RSVP fees, and soliciting a response to said invitation, wherein an affirmative response to
12 said invitation requires a payment as defined by said RSVP fees;

13 receiving RSVP status information including payment information from said invitee; and
14 verifying said payment information.